

01001

1972/09/15

~~TOP SECRET~~ 152247Z SEP 72 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY
VIA BUNKER CHANNEL

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON

CITE: WHS2162

1. YOU SHOULD SEE THIEU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND GIVE HIM FOLLOWING
RUNDOWN ON MY SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING.
2. AT FIVE AND A HALF HOUR MEETING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DISPLAYED
EXTREME EAGERNESS TO SETTLE QUICKLY THROUGH THEIR MOST CONCILIATORY
TONE TO DATE; REPEATED REQUESTS THAT WE SET A TIMETABLE FOR
NEGOTIATIONS AND A DEADLINE FOR OVERALL AGREEMENT WHICH THEY
HOPED COULD COME WITHIN WEEKS; AND THEIR STRONG DESIRE TO MEET AGAIN
SOONEST AND ON SUCCESSIVE DAYS IF POSSIBLE.
3. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE TABLED NEW PROPOSALS WHICH WE WILL FORWARD
TO YOU SHORTLY. WHILE THERE IS LIMITED MOVEMENT IN CERTAIN AREAS,

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6

MR 96-9, #103; NSC 68, 12/24/96

By WT NARA, Date 1/16/97

YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE UNACCEPTABLE CORE OF THEIR POSITION REMAINS, THOUGH DIFFERENTLY PACKAGED. THEY WOULD HAVE GVN AND PRG EACH ADMINISTER LOCAL AREAS THEY CONTROL WITH SUPERSTRUCTURE OF THREE SEGMENT COALITION GOVERNMENT. I MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT WE COULD NOT ACCEPT THEIR PLAN AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO MODIFY IT. THEY DID NOT DEMUR, SAYING ONLY THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD REVIEW THEIR POSITIONS. THERE WERE NO REFERENCES TO BOMBING NOR ANY OF THEIR USUAL . . . DIATRIBES.

4. WE TABLED ONLY OUR SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSAL WHICH WAS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GVN, MEETING GVN CONCERNS AS BEST WE COULD DESPITE LAST MINUTE NATURE OF ITS COMMENTS. WE ALSO WITHHELD OUR PROCEDURAL PLAN ALTOGETHER IN LIGHT OF GVN VIEWS.

5. I HAVE NEVER SEEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EVEN REMOTELY CLOSE TO BEING THIS ANXIOUS FOR A SETTLEMENT BEFORE. THEY MUST BE HURTING. THEY REPEATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN THEIR DESIRE TO END THE WAR QUICKLY. THIS ATTITUDE COULD PROVE MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN THE PRECISE NATURE OF THEIR CURRENT PLANS BECAUSE IT STRONGLY SUGGESTS THEY WILL CONTINUE MODIFYING THEIR POSITIONS.

6. THEY WANTED TO MEET NEXT FRIDAY FOR TWO STRAIGHT DAYS. I SAID WE WOULD CONFIRM EITHER SEPTEMBER 22 OR 25. A TWO DAY MEETING WILL SILENCE OUR DOMESTIC OPPOSITION FOR WEEKS AT A TIME. DURING THIS NEXT ROUND WE CAN SEE WHETHER NORTH VIETNAM'S EAGER ATTITUDE IS TRANSLATED INTO MORE REASONABLE PROPOSALS.

7. YOU SHOULD REAFFIRM TO THIEU THAT WE SHALL FOLLOW STRATEGY WE HAVE DELINEATED, THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE OTHER SIDE'S PLAN AND THAT WE WILL NOT UNDERMINE OUR OBJECTIVES OR OUR FRIENDS IN THE HOMESTRETCH. WE REQUIRE NO NEW CONCESSIONS FROM HIM AND PLAN TO TABLE NO NEW PROPOSALS.

HE IN TURN WILL NEED TO SHOW GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TACTICAL SITUATION AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR MOTIVES AND MOVES. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT HE UNDERSTAND THAT THE WHOLE ORIENTATION OF OUR POLICY IS BEING CHALLENGED AND THAT HE HAS A BIG STAKE IN IT. ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WE GOT THROUGH THIS MEETING WITHOUT MAKING ANY CONCESSIONS, YOU SHOULD SPEAK QUITE STERNLY. THANK YOU FOR EVERY THING

WARMLY